

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

NIC-01 SAJ-01 EB-11 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /110 W

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R 240800Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8477

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMCONGEN MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1715

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR RO XH

SUBJ: IDEOLOGICAL TIGHTENING UP IN EAST EUROPE

REF: STATE 70845

1. HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATS HERE HAVE GENERALLY HEWED TO OFFICIAL HUNGARIAN PRESS EXPLANATIONS OF GOVERNMENTAL SHAKEUP. WHILE NO HUNGARIAN EMBOFF DID NOT DENY THAT DECEMBER 1973 MOSCOW IDEOLOGICAL MEETING MAY HAVE HAD SOME INFLUENCE, MOST CAST HUNGARIAN CHANGES IN INTERNAL FRAMEWORK, TAKING LINE THAT A FEW INTELLECTUALS HAD BEEN ABUSING FREEDOMS AND ACTING CENTRIFUGALLY, WHILE IN ECONOMY GROWING AFFLUENCE OF THOSE PRIVILEGED UNDER NEW ECONOMIC POLICIES HAD CREATED SOCIAL TENSIONS THAT NEEDED CORRECTING.

2. WE HAVE SEEN LITTLE EVIDENCE OF ROMANIAN IDEOLOGICAL
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HARDENING SINCE DECEMBER, AND THERE IS EVERY REASON TO

BELIEVE THAT THE ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP IS STRONGLY RESISTING SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO "COORDINATE". THEE BLOC IDEOLOGICAL SPHERE HAS BEEN FAIRLY TIGHT EVER SINCE 1971, IN RECENT MONTHS, AS HAPPENS FROM TIME TO TIME, LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE JOCKEYING HAS OOOZED INTO THE OPEN THROUGH PARTY AND CULTURAL JOURNALS, AND LIBERAL VOICES HAVE BY NO MEANS BEEN MUTED.

3. WHILE CEAUSESCU OCCASIONALLY ERUPTS WITH ADMONISHMENTS TO PAY MORE ATTENTION TO IDEOLOGY, THINGS GO ON ABOUT AS BEFORE DESPITE RECENT PRESS LAW AND RADIO-TV REORGANIZATION. (ALTHOUGH COUCHED IN RESTRICTIVE TERMS, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF THEIR ACTUAL EFFECT WILL BE SIMPLY RECODIFICATION.) CEAUSESCU, INsofar AS HE IS INTERESTED IN IDEOLOGY AT ALL, IS PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH MORAL STIMULANTS TO SPUR ROMANIAN NATIONAL MORALE AND INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS. ALTHOUGH THE "DANGER OF BOURGEOIS IDEOLOGY" IS FLAGGED DESULTORILY, SUCH WARNINGS ARE LARGELY ABSENT FROM DAILY PRESS AND JOURNAL OUTPUT. WHAT REMAINS OF NEWS COVERAGE OF THE WEST AFTER

SEVERE ABRIDGEMENT IS OTHERWISE FAIRLY OBJECTIVE AND NON-POLEMICAL. THERE HAS BEEN VIRTUALLY NO REVELING IN WESTERN DISSENSIONS OR HARSH IDEOLOGICAL ASSAULTS.

4. RUMORED AMALGAMATION OF ENTIRE ROMANIAN CULTURAL-IDEOLOGICAL DOMAIN IN A SUPER-MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE TO SUPERCEDE PRESENT COUNCIL ON SOCIALIST EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION--IF IT MATERIALIZES--WOULD BE ANOTHER RESHUFFLE CONNECTED PRIMARILY WITH ON-GOING INTERNAL LEADERSHIP REALIGNMENT, NOT WITH EXTERNAL CONSIDERATIONS.

5. GRADUAL INCREASE IN ATHEIST PROPAGANDA IN MEDIA OVER PAST YEAR OR TWO MAY BE TO COUNTER MORE ACTIVIST MOOD IN PROTESTANT SECTS.

6. AFTER CEAUSESCU'S CONSOLIDATION OF GREATER PERSONAL POWER AT MARCH PLENUM, HE SEEMS EVEN BETTER POSITIONED TO TELL SOVIETS THAT ROMANIA WILL HANDLE DETENTE IN OWN CONFIDENTIAL

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WAY AND HAS NO NEED FOR ADVICE FROM OUTSIDERS. HE COULD ALSO ADD THAT ROMANIA HAS NO INTERNAL DISSENT PROBLEMS SUCH AS OTHER FRATERNAL COUNTRIES HE MIGHT NAME.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PARTY MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUCHAR01715
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740096-0630
From: BUCHAREST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740419/aaaaaqik.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 70845
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <12 JUN 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IDEOLOGICAL TIGHTENING UP IN EAST EUROPE
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, RO, XH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005